

**ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for applying at least one receiving attribute at a receiving destination is provided. The design specifies receiving attributes based on constraints on definable multivariate functions, the definable multivariate functions including either linear combinations of products of univariate functions of attribute values or stack functions. The method may process predetermined specified functions at a format independent adaptation engine in a network using XML syntax by specifying an expression for the function using an ordered list of numeric constants, variables, arguments, and operators pushed into an expression stack to evaluate the expression.